

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in this application.

Responsive to the preliminary determination of lack of unity set forth in the outstanding Official Action, applicants provisionally elect Group II, claims 9-16, 19 and 20, drawn to a method, with traverse.

The reasons for traverse follow:

The Official Action alleges that the claimed invention is not novel as evidenced by POCKNELL US 4,791,149 ("POCKNELL"). Specifically, the Official Action states that POCKNELL discloses gelatinous wound dressings with an organosilicon polymer that cures by crosslinking.

However, POCKNELL does not teach a preparation for applying to the skin that forms a soft and skin friendly elastomer which adheres to the skin, as recited in claim 1. Instead, POCKNELL teaches a preparation that is explicitly stated to be applied to a wound, i.e., a mass conforming to the contours of a wound and being non-adherent. See, e.g., Column 2, lines 50-52 of POCKNELL.

Thus, the preparation that adheres to the skin according to claim 1 is novel in relation to the non-adherent wound composition according POCKNELL, and the Groups are thereby linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Further, in applying the same legal standard with similar claims, the International Search Authority did not determine the unity of invention as lacking. Thus, the Patent Office has the benefit of the search report, but fails to explain why a different legal conclusion was reached.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed to be apparent that the lack of unity determination set forth in the Official Action is improper and must be withdrawn. A favorable action on the merits of all claims 1-20 in their full scope is therefore respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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